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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 22 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 28 June 1994, Nicaragua and 11 other countries addressed a letter (A/49/144) to Your Excellency in which they requested you to include in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly an item on the so-called "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context, based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations". Upon the instruction of my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows.

1. The Chinese Government and people express the utmost indignation at the request concerning the so-called "representation" of Taiwan in the United Nations by Nicaragua and some other countries. This move not only constitutes a serious infringement upon China's sovereignty and gross interference in China's internal affairs, but also gravely contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. The Charter of the United Nations specifically stipulates that the United Nations and its Members shall refrain from any action against the territorial integrity or political independence of any of its Members or any State and shall not intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. Therefore, we are firmly opposed to any attempt to create "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan", or "one country, two seats" both in and outside the United Nations by any country, international organization or individual under whatever pretext and in whatever form.

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* A/49/150.

2. Taiwan has belonged to China since ancient times. This is a historical fact that nobody can change. China's sovereignty over Taiwan was reaffirmed respectively in the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and the Potsdam Proclamation of 1945. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, 159 countries have successively established diplomatic relations with China, all of which recognize that there is only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government of China and Taiwan only a part of China. Even the Taiwan authorities expressed their firm stand for "one China" as opposed to "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan" in their recently issued white paper on cross-strait relations.

3. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations has long been settled once and for all politically, legally and procedurally since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2758 (XXVI) at its twenty-sixth session by an overwhelming majority. The resolution states in unmistakable terms that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council". It is on the basis of this resolution that all the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and its specialized agencies and organizations have been restored to it. The General Committee of the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly categorically rejected the unreasonable request for inclusion of the so-called question of Taiwan's "representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly. This reflects the determination of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations to uphold the sanctity of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations General Assembly resolution and proves the unpopularity and futility of any attempt that goes against the will of the majority of States Members of the United Nations. Now, a small number of countries, in disregard of the historical fact and the relevant United Nations resolution, have again made a fanfare for Taiwan's "returning" to the United Nations. Their attempt is doomed to failure.

4. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulates in explicit terms that only sovereign States are entitled to membership in the United Nations. The principle of "universality of membership" is only applicable to sovereign States. Taiwan, as a province of China, has no right whatsoever to be a Member of the United Nations, and, therefore, the principle of "universality of membership" does not apply in this case. As to Taiwan's membership in regional economic organizations such as the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, it is a special arrangement made by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the relevant organizations through an agreement or understanding between them on the principle of one China and in a manner acceptable to and agreed by the Chinese Government, which makes it clear that the People's Republic of China participates in these organizations as a sovereign State, whereas Taiwan as an economic region of China. It should also be pointed out that the question of Taiwan, which is an internal matter of China, bears no analogy to the cases of Germany and Korea, which were brought about as a result of the international accords at the end of the Second World War. Therefore, the Taiwan question and the situation of Germany and Korea should not be equated. In total disregard of the historical facts and objective

reality, the memorandum contained in annex I to document A/49/144 distorts the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and attempts to justify the admission of Taiwan into the United Nations by abusing the "principle of universality" and the "model of parallel representation of divided countries". This is entirely void of legal basis and far-fetched, and is therefore totally untenable.

5. The maintenance of national unity and territorial integrity is the sacrosanct right of each sovereign State as well as a fundamental principle of international law. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal affair of China in which no country has the right to interfere. To achieve national reunification is in the fundamental interests of the entire Chinese nation. Over the years, the Chinese Government and people have made untiring efforts and achieved positive progress towards this end. The basic policy of the Chinese Government on the settlement of the question of Taiwan is "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems". It has taken into full consideration the actual conditions in Taiwan and the real interests of the Chinese compatriots in Taiwan, and enjoys the support of the entire Chinese nation of nearly 1.2 billion, including their compatriots in Taiwan. The reunification of China is an irreversible trend of history. Having no regard for the overall interests of the Chinese nation, the Taiwan authorities have continued to engage, in the international arena, in "silver bullet diplomacy" aimed at "dual recognition" or "two Chinas", in an attempt to "return" to the United Nations. The Chinese Government and people are seriously concerned about these developments and will never condone any attempt to split the motherland and obstruct and undermine the cause of China's reunification.

6. The proposal by Nicaragua and 11 other countries is not a simple procedural issue. Its real intention is to split China, and impede and undermine China's reunification. This is obvious to all. The Chinese Government strongly urges the countries concerned to redress their erroneous act. The Chinese Government and people are confident that they can count on the understanding and support of the United Nations as well as the Governments and people of all countries in their pursuit of the just cause of safeguarding the State sovereignty and territorial integrity of China.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 49 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
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and Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations